



**STATE OF VERMONT
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620**

Vermont Students Continue to Improve on AP, SAT, ACT Exam Results

MONTPELIER – Vermont students posted a strong showing on the 2010 College Board Advanced Placement (AP) exams and Scholastic Assessment Tests (SAT), as well as the 2010 ACT exams, the Department of Education announced today.

The **AP** program offers high school students college-level courses in a variety of subject areas. In all, 3,677 Vermont students participated in the AP program (up 5.2 percent from 2009) and took 6,057 AP exams (up 5.3 percent from last year). According to the College Board, Vermont continues to increase the number of students taking AP courses even as student enrollment is declining overall.

AP exams are scored on a scale of one (lowest score) to five (highest score). Sixty-two percent of Vermont exams were scored at three or higher. A score of three or above is considered demonstrating college-level mastery of the content.

Vermont students continue to perform above the national average on the **SAT** exams. Since 2009, Critical Reading increased by one point to 519 (compared to 501 nationally), Mathematics increased by three points to 521 (compared to 516 nationally) and Writing stayed the same at 506 (compared to 492 nationally).

In addition, 70 percent of Vermont high school seniors took the exam, with the number of SAT test-takers in the 2010 high school cohort in Vermont decreasing from 5,306 to 5164.

More females than males take the SAT exam in Vermont, and gender gaps still remain by subject area, with males excelling in Math and Reading, and females excelling in Writing. Females scored an average of 516 in Critical Reading compared to 522 for males; 504 in Mathematics compared to 541 for males, and 511 in Writing compared to 500 for males.

The **ACT** college admission and placement exam tests student skills in Reading, Writing, Math and Science. The scores from those exams are averaged to create a composite score. Vermont's high school graduates in the class of 2010 earned an average composite score of 23.2 on the ACT, up from 23.1 last year and up from 22.5 in 2006. A total of 2,054 Vermont graduates took the exam, or 26 percent of that class. Vermont's average ACT score of 23.2 is higher than the national average of 21.0 and ranked fifth in the country. According to ACT, Vermont high school graduates outperform the national averages across all subject areas in terms of college readiness and scores.

###